

[Alexander J. Paradis]

October 10, 1939

Alexander J. Paradis

High School Student

Charlotte, N. C.

Frank B. Rupert, Writer

Dudley W. Crawford, Reviser

No Names Changed C9 - 1/22/41 - N.C.

Alexander J. Pardalis, a student in the 1940 graduation Class of Harding High School in Charlotte, N. C., was born in Morgantown, W. Va., April 25, 1920 of Greek parents. He is a decendant of some of the most distinguished men and women among the Greek nobility, and inherited from them many ideals and traditions of Grecian aristocracy, and is cultivating his talent for art in its several branches.

When he was five years old, his mother took him to Greece for a visit. For two years they traveled to the beautiful cities of Greece, absorbing their evidence of culture and education, and then journeying up into the mountains to spend a year with his great grandmother, who, by way of record, died in 1938 at the age of one hundred and nine . years old.

Here Alexander attended a small school where roads were almost unknown, the children journeying each day on foot or horse back. Good drinking water was scares near the school and Alexander had to carry a small water jug of pure water from home.

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Already his mind was occupied with the beauty he saw in everything, and he busied himself sketching scenes and people at every opportunity.

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At the age of eight years he and his mother returned to America and back to Morgantown to join the father. Entering school , Alexander continued his studies for four years when they were interrupted by financial losses suffered by the family.

Moving to Morristown, Pa., he entered school and at the age of 12 years became an honor student in art, winning a medal and a trip to the Art Museums of Philadelphia.

After a year the family moved to Frederick, Md. when, as a student in the sixth grade, Alexander won a Blue Ribbon in an art contest; his art teacher taking him, as a reward, to Washington where he spent two profitable days visiting the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Art Galleries.

Being dissatisfied after a year, his family moved to Mercersburg, Pa. where Alexander was free to study nature and outdoor scenes and attend school.

In 1935 the family arrived in Charlotte where he entered the eighth grade at school, continuing his art studies under the instructions of Miss Lemmond. These studies were interrupted by a year in Greenville, S. C., where he attended high school and also studied the Greek 3 language under the Resident Greek Priest.

In 1937 he returned to Charlotte entering the tenth grade at Harding High School, still concentrating his effort in art studies. In 1938 Alexander won a Blue Ribbon at an Art exhibit at the Mint Museum of Charlotte, much of his sculpturing also receiving great commendation.

Alexander is a modern American boy in every regard. While respecting the high ideals and traditions of his parents' native land; he recognizes all the benefits and opportunities

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which he and his parents have enjoyed in America, and he combines them all into a well balanced mode of living.

He is a christian, attends the Greek Church and believes in freedom of worship.

He is fond of the less strenuous forms of sport, such as swimming, tennis and horse back riding. He loves good music, his favorite instruments being the mandolin and accordion. He is also fond of dogs, being the owner of a fine Great Dane, and enjoys his association with the group of students with whom he studies.

Besides his interest in his art career, he has an ambition to bring to America a colony of young Greeks who could to study American democracy and all phases of 4 agriculture so that they could return to Greece and teach the higher standards of living and progress among the peasant class, where it is much needed.

The glow of inspiration and enthusiasm which comes into his fine face when discussing this ambition causes one to wonder if, indeed, future years will not bring success to a person with such a vision, and devotion to his career.